

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 23614 161018Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 DHA-02
SCS-03 SCA-01 /082 W
-----050199 161022Z /10

O R 161011Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7131
USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BANGUI IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 23614

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UK, CT, PINS, US
SUBJECT: RELEASE OF WESTERN JOURNALIST

REF: BANGUI 1737

1. WE HAVE RECEIVED INDIRECTLY FROM AP HERE THE
FOLLOWING FROM RELEASED JOURNALIST, MICHAEL GOLDSMITH.
ACCORDING TO GOLDSMITH, WHEN ARRESTED, HE WAS TAKEN
IMMEDIATELY TO THE PALACE WHERE EMPEROR BOKASSA AND HIS
GUARDS BEAT HIM UNTIL HE LOST CONSCIOUSNESS. HE WAS
TAKEN TO SMALL CELL IN THE CENTRAL PRISON WHERE HE HAD
CHAINS ON WRISTS AND ANKLES AND WAS FED A MEAGER DIET
OF AFRICAN FOOD. HE WAS GIVEN NO MEDICAL TREATMENT EVEN
THOUGH HIS WOUNDS FESTERED. AFTER SIX DAYS HE WAS TAKEN
TO A BETTER CELL WHERE HE GOT BETTER FOOD, AND THE
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EMPEROR'S MEDICAL ORDERLY (NOT A DOCTOR) STITCHED THE
GASH ON HIS FOREHEAD AND TREATED HIS OTHER WOUNDS.
THURSDAY, AUGUST 11 HE WAS TAKEN TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY
WHERE HE MET THE ENVOY SENT BY BONGO; ON FRIDAY HE WAS
TAKEN TO THE HOTEL WHERE HE WAS KEPT UNDER GUARD. ON
SATURDAY HE WAS TAKEN TO THE PALACE WHERE HE WAS
INTERROGATED BY THE EMPEROR AND OTHERS FOR THREE HOURS;

BOKASSA WAS ALTERNATELY FRIENDLY AND THREATENING. GOLDSMITH FOUND THAT THE SCRIBES OCCASIONALLY WROTE DOWN QUITE DIFFERENT ANSWERS FROM THOSE HE HAD GIVEN. HE WAS FINALLY MADE TO SIGN A DOCUMENT UNDER THREAT OF BEING RETURNED TO PRISON.

2. IN ADDITION TO THE GASH ON HIS FOREHEAD, GOLDSMITH IS COMPLAINING ABOUT HIS WRIST AND KIDNEY PAINS. AP REPRESENTATIVE IN LONDON SAID THAT HE HAD NOT ONLY LOST A GOOD DEAL OF WEIGHT, BUT HE APPEARED VERY PALE AND MENTALLY CONFUSED. HE WILL BE SEEING A DOCTOR THIS MORNING (AUGUST 16) AND FLYING TO NEW YORK IN THE AFTERNOON. AP HERE BELIEVES HE WISHES TO TALK WITH AP HEAD OFFICE IN NEW YORK PERHAPS ABOUT THE DOCUMENTS HE HAS SIGNED, BUT IS NOT FULLY AWARE OF HIS INTENTIONS. HARTMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: JOURNALISTS, ARRESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PARIS23614
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770294-1171
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From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770857/aaaabwhu.tel
Line Count: 78
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: aad4f759-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1588759
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RELEASE OF WESTERN JOURNALIST
TAGS: PINS, UK, CT, US, (GOLDSMITH, MICHAEL)
To: STATE USUN NEW YORK
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